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Appl. No. 09/993,344 Amdt. dated Reply to Advisory Action of February 27, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented) An isolated biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 which evidences a link to Alzheimer's disease.

Claims 2-38. (cancelled)

Claim 39. (withdrawn) A method for determining the presence of a biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 comprising:

(a) obtaining a sample from a patient;

(b) conducting mass spectrometric analysis on said sample in a manner effective to maximize analysis of peptide fragments contained therein and comparing a mass spectral profile of said biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 to mass spectral profiles of peptides obtained and analyzed from said sample; and

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(c) confirming the presence of said biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 in said sample by identifying a mass spectral profile having an ion peak at about 1874 daltons;

wherein the presence of said biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 is indicative of a link to Alzheimer's disease.

Claim 40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said sample is an unfractionated body fluid or a tissue sample.

Claim 41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, blood products, urine, saliva, cerebrospinal fluid, and lymph.

Claim 42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said mass spectrometric analysis is selected from the group of mass spectrometry formats consisting of Surface Enhanced Laser Desorption Ionization (SELDI) mass spectrometry (MS), Maldi Qq TOF, MS/MS, TOF-TOF, ESI-Q-TOF and ION-TRAP.

Claim 43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said patient is a human.

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Claim 44. (withdrawn) A kit for determining the presence of a biopolymer marker consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1 comprising: (a) a peptide consisting of amino acid residues 2-18 of SEQ ID NO:1, and (b) an antibody that binds to said peptide in a sample from a patient.

Claim 45. (withdrawn) The kit of claim 44, wherein said antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

Claim 46. (withdrawn) The kit of claim 44, wherein said antibody is labeled.